

REMARKS

The claims have been amended to correspond to those of the amendment after final rejection, which was not entered. The claims in the case are 1-20.

The examiner states that the claims read on Van Stam. With respect, Applicant believes the Examiner may have interpreted this document incorrectly, and in particular may be confusing the transmission of preference information with the *prioritization of transmission* of such information. This prioritization is an element of each independent claim. The following example is provided by way of explanation.

According to Van Stam, client A sends partial lists to client B, which contain ratings of items, and if the correlation of ratings in the list of client A with the corresponding items on client B is high enough the full list is sent from client A to client B.

Thus, a partial list 1 may contain items U, V and W which may be rated 1, 7 and 6 out of 10 respectively by client A. A partial list 2 may contain items X, Y and Z which may be rated 6, 7 and 9 out of 10 respectively by client A. In addition, each item is timestamped, representing when the item was last updated. Corresponding items may be listed with ratings and timestamps on client B. This example is indicated in the table below, where the timestamps are represented by the time in days since the item was last updated;

Client A	Partial list 1			Partial list 2		
Item	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
Rating	1	7	6	6	8	9
Days	5	1	6	9	2	1

Client B	Partial list 1			Partial list 2		
Item	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
Rating	4	5	-	7	-	9
Days	6	5	-	1	-	3

Thus according to Van Stam, partial lists 1 and 2 are sent by client A to client B, and if the items in one of the partial lists of client A has a high enough correlation with the corresponding items on client B, the entire list is transmitted to client B. However, the transmission of the items within the list is not prioritised (page 8, lines 3-7).

As such, according to Van Stam, client A may not transmit the full list relating to partial list 1 as the correlation between ratings is relatively low, and although in partial list 2 the correlation is better, the order in which items are transmitted may not be favourable. In this example, the highest correlation of ratings relates to item Z. In addition, the age of item X is greater on client A than on client B. However, the transmission order is X, Y, Z, which means that bandwidth is wasted by sending irrelevant older data (item X) to client B, and the most desirable correlation (item Z) is transmitted last, and may not be received if the transmission terminates before completion.

In contrast, according to the invention the items are transmitted in the order of highest priority, such that the timestamp information is taken into consideration. In the above example, item Z may be transmitted first as it is the newest information and has the highest rating, followed by Y for similar reasons, whereas X may not be transmitted at all due to its age. Item V may also be transmitted as the information is newer on client A than on B, even though the correlation between ratings is lower.

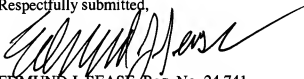
Thus, the invention as presently claimed allows the most relevant information to be transmitted first and optimises the use of the bandwidth available. The recommender thus generates a more up-to-date recommendation based on this information, even if the transmissions are incomplete as the most relevant information is transmitted first. Without any suggestion in the art, it cannot be seen how this is obvious. Allowance is therefore requested.

This amendment accompanies the filing of a Request for Continued Examination (RCE). Please charge Deposit Account No. 26-0084 the amount of \$810.00 for the RCE per the attached transmittal.

This is also a request under the provision of 37 CFR § 1.136(a) to extend the period for filing a response in the above-identified application for two months from October 25, 2008 to December 25, 2008. A request for an extension of time from October 25, 2008 to November 25, 2008 was previously filed with the Amendment After Final filed November 24, 2008. Applicant is a large entity; therefore, please charge Deposit Account Number 26-0084 in the amount of \$360.00 for a two month extension of time minus the one month previously paid (\$490-\$130). Any deficiency or overpayment should be charged or credited to Deposit Account 26-0084.

Reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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